

Message Text

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R 212338 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: DENIAL OF VISAS TO VOA STAFFERS

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED APPROACH MFA TO EXPRESS USG' S CONCERN OVER DENIAL OF VISA APPLICATIONS OF TWO VOA STAFFERS (TAKACS AND VARSA) TO COVER BUDAPEST FAIR.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD BASE ITS PRESENTATION ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. US PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL BUDAPEST FAIR A MAJOR UNDERTAKING WHICH, WE BELIEVE, IS IN THE MUTUAL INTEREST OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

B. WE HAVE RECEIVED ASSURANCES IN THE PAST FROM MFA (BARTHA IN MAY, 1972- BUDAPEST 928) THAT GOH PREPARED TO SUPPORT USG IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY TO MAKE US PARTICIPATION IN FAIR A SUCCESS.

C. GOH HAS VOICED NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO VOA REPORTING IN RECENT YEARS, AND SPECIFICALLY, NO RPT NO OBJECTION TO VOA COVERAGE OF FAIR. ON THE CONTRARY, WE BELIEVED THAT GOH RECOGNIZED THAT WE REGARD VOA COVERAGE OF FAIR TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESSENTIAL AND THAT GOH WAS PREPARED TO FACILITATE THIS COVERAGE.

D. WE WERE INFORMED BY HUNGARIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON ON MAY 10 THAT TAKACS' VISA APPLICATION WAS DENIED. HUNGARIAN EMBASSY SAID DENIAL WAS NOT BASED ON ANY OBJECTION

TO VOA COVERAGE OF FAIR AND ENCOURAGED USIA TO SUBMIT NEW APPLICATION. HOWEVER, WHEN WE SUBSTITUTED VARSA, WHO HAD BEEN GRANTED VISA IN 1972, ON MAY 11, HIS APPLICATION ALSO DENIED ON MAY 18. TAKACS HAD ORIGINALLY APPLIED ON APRIL 12. THE TIME TAKEN TO PROCESS HIS APPLICATION OBVIOUSLY MADE THE JOB OF FINDING A SUBSTITUTE MORE DIFFICULT WHEN HIS APPLICATION WAS DENIED.

E. DENIAL OF TWO APPLICATIONS HAS HAD UNFORTUNATE RESULT OF MAKING DIRECT VOA COVERAGE OF FAIR THIS YEAR IMPOSSIBLE.

3. EMBASSY SHOULD REQUEST ASSURANCES FROM MFA THAT GOH STILL PREPARED TO FACILITATE VOA COVERAGE OF BUDAPEST FAIR IN FUTURE YEARS, AS WELL AS OTHER IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF US-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO MAKE APPROACH TO POLITICAL SIDE OF MFA (DEPARTMENT V) AT DCM LEVEL. DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO MAKE PARALLEL APPROACH HERE TO HUNGARIAN EMBASSY IF EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL. HOWEVER, SINCE DECISION ON BOTH APPLICATIONS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN BUDAPEST, DEPARTMENT QUESTIONS UTILITY OF SUCH AN APPROACH.
RUSH

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